l'edge

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NCYC'95 - ONLY SIX MONTHS TO GO!

"What!!? Only SIX months to go.... you've got to be kidding me!" screamed Stu Cameron, NCYC '95 Convention Manager, at about 120 decibels. L'Edge journalist, Lisa Chapman's first question had caught Stu by surprise.

L'Edge welcomes Western Australian readers!
This issue of L'Edge appears as WESTERN IMPACT - a publication of the Western Australian Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia

When he had recovered, Stu went on to say, "The days before NCYC '95 are fast ticking away!"

NCYC stands for the National Christian Youth Convention. It is being held in Adelaide for a week in January of 1995. This is the goal that Stu Cameron — Convention Manager, and Rebecca Kohler — Administrative Assistant, and volunteers too numerous to count (let alone mention), have been working towards for eighteen months now.

"NCYC occurs every two years in a different state and attracts two to three thousand people between the ages of 16 and 30," explains Stu.

"The theme for NCYC '95 is 'The Edge'. The idea of this theme is to meet individual delegates where they're at — on their own personal edge, and challenge them to step out in faith. This theme has then been split into five different topics which will be explored at the night rallies, during bible studies and in small groups."

NCYC '95 has a mission statement: "to construct a community which so reflects the kingdom of God that people will be changed." Organisers hope to fulfil this mission by building close knit communities. Each day, delegates will spend until lunchtime with their community.

The two key speakers at NCYC will be Duffy Robbins and Caesar Molebatsi. Duffy Robbins is a dynamic speaker from the United States with an ability to communicate with young people. Caesar Molebatsi comes from Soweto, South Africa and has been detained and harassed for his passionate faith in Jesus Christ.

"One of the fantastic aspects of NCYC '95 has been the involvement of volunteers and the wider church. A group of volunteers from South Australia will be on the "Ledgends Crew". Ledgends will create a friendly and enjoyable community atmosphere during NCYC. They will help people who are lost or can't find a toilet!"

All communities at NCYC will be "twinned" with a church in Adelaide.

These links will help local congregations feel an integral part of NCYC. They will also provide vital volunteer services to each community — they might help out with meals or provide a place for people to stay if tent city gets flooded!

On the fourth day of convention there will be a festival of the arts. It will be open to the public, and will focus on youth arts, sport and recreation. It will offer delegates an opportunity to take a break and relax in an informal atmosphere.

There will be visual and participatory arts — things like African dance, graffiti art, cartooning and mime. There will also be sport and recreational activities — perhaps volleyball with 200 a side or a basketball game for 250.

All of these activities will centre around the Village Green, the centre for food and fun. There will be side-shows, food stalls, and a dunking tank with celebrity dunkees! In the evening, there will be cabaret style performances, and a late night DJ.

"NCYC is trying to offer something that appeals to everyone. Seventy-five delegates will stay in a very different community!"

The Old Adelaide Gaol will be a community like no other; big stone walls, iron bars, and lots of barbed wire.

Delegates will be sleeping on squeaky, lumpy beds in tiny cells, and eating where inmates once ate their meals.

It won't be luxurious and comfortable, but that is the reason for being there. This community will be tackling justice issues like deaths in custody, prison violence, and the social effects of imprisonment.

If you are interested in being a part of this community, contact Rebecca at the Convention Office for an application form. Applications close September 30.

"For those who want to discuss issues, hot houses will be held on several afternoons during free time at NCYC.

"They will provide a forum where you get to have your say and discuss issues with other delegates".

NCYC '95 is going to be a life changing experience. You'll have a chance to meet and share with young Christians from all around Australia and overseas.

It really is an event not to be missed!

NCYC '95
(The National Christian Youth Convention) is an activity of the Uniting Church in Australia.

***L'Edge* is the monthly publication produced on behalf of NCYC '95.**

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NCYC '95 MISSION STATEMENT

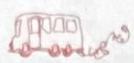
"To construct a community which so reflects the Kingdom of God that people will be changed."

All roads lead to Adelaide

by David Gardiner

So, you're going to NCYC'95, but not sure how to get there? Well one means of transport that I can personally recommend is the Bus tour!

Yes, it seems these are somewhat synonymous with NCYC— a chance to spend time (depending on the trip, a lot of time) with other delegates from your state.



Apart from the standard amusements on the modern coach (not a bus, but a coach) like videos, scenery and the toilet, NCYC'95 bus tours provide many extra vehicular activities.

Some dear to my heart include *The bus driver trying to unbalance whoever happens to be in the toilet by swerving wildly all over the road*, *Aisle Pillow Surviving* (Russell Reynoldson from WA was particularly good at this), *Chubby Bunnies - the art of competitive marshmallow stuffing*, *The Fork and Long Piece of String through everyones clothes game*, and last on my list, *Two little ducks, twenty two - Bingo!*

I can still remember the night we decided to sleep under the stars in the middle of the Nullarbor and it rained; the mock wedding in which I think I was a bridesmaid (always the bridesmaid, never the bride) - well it was a mock wedding.

On our trip the coach captain

and his wife prepared most of our meals. After everyone had been served, what became the catch cry for our trip would ring out. "Anyone for Sssssssssssssseconds?!".

Maybe I shouldn't mention this, but I noticed that bus tours also represent a unique opportunity for new friendships. In some instances, close friendships. Hmm, come to think of it, I'm sure that in some instances, life long friendships. It does happen!

Then there were the water fights!

Because our bus didnt have all those new-fangled gadgets and amusements like a video or TV, so we were able to get away with slightly messier activities. Images of our Leader, and our Chaplain having it out at 5 paces in the aisle with water pistols come "flooding" back. On that occasion, the Chaplain lost.

We've included a list of most of the bus tours we know of. Some of them sound pretty interesting. In fact if I didn't already live at the destination ... no that is being silly!

Worth mentioning are the NSW *Wilcannia Work Camp* tour - on the way home from NCYC'95, they stop off in Wilcannia to get involved with Aboriginal community projects.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Metropolitan (02) 688 3074)
Tour 1 — Express
Dates: 6/1/95 — 15/1/95
Cost $175
Tour 2 — Wilcannia Work Camp
Dates: 6/1/95 — 25/1/95
Cost: $240

Canberra (06) 248 9311
Dates: 4/1/95 — 22/1/95
Cost $495

Newcastle (049) 68 3854

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Metropolitan (089) 81 4444

QUEENSLAND

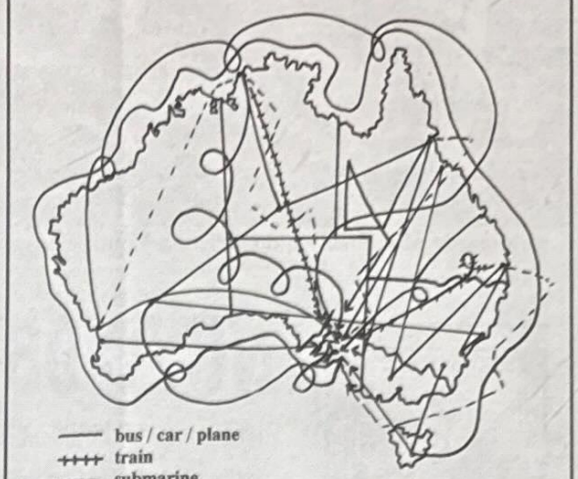
Metropolitan (07) 371 5213
The Great Southern Edge
Dates: 1/1/94 — 15/1/95
Cost: $555
Express
Dates: 6/1/95 — 15/1/95
Cost: $375

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Eyre
Valerie Bartlett (086) 282 037

TASMANIA

Metropolitan (003) 31 9784
Safari Tour
Dates: 4/1/95 — 20/1/95
Cost: $620 / $750



How to get there

VICTORIA

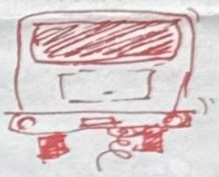
Metropolitan (03) 654 2488
Tour
Dates: 7/1/95 — 18/1/95
Cost: $250
Express
Dates: 7/1/95 — 14/1/95
Cost: $100

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Metropolitan (09) 388 3150
Long
Dates: 4/1/95 — 23/1/95
Cost $710
Short
Dates: 4/1/95 — 16/1/95
Cost: $490

Then there is the *NCYC'95 Safari Tour* from Tasmania - maybe those Tasmanian tigers aren't extinct after all.

But for my money, I think the best bus tours are going to be had by the Overseas Delegates.



What's happening Way Out West

There's a lot happening in Western Australia as they prepare for NCYC'95.

Here's a few highlights:

• Bus Tours

Bus tours from Perth to Adelaide are incorporating a number of special attractions which will add to the quality of the NCYC'95 experience.

These include adventure caving, snow-skiing and relaxing on Kangaroo Island. With there being two individual tours, catering for up to 90 people.

These tours are an exciting way to prepare for the Convention. (Plus you won't feel completely lost amongst the 3,000 other delegates).

The WA bus tour is an important part of the NCYC'95 experience which is not to be missed!

• Fundraising

Western Australians are busy fundraising for the coming NCYC'95. On example is the Duncraig Youth Group, who are having a fundraising dinner called the 'Jerusalem Club". This five course dinner is for the whole parish and will be held in July. They plan to have a fun filled evening and are hoping for around 50 people at $15 per head, to help them get to NCYC'95.

• Drama Team

Western Australia is fortunate to have a drama team, made up of half a dozen young people, who are letting others know about NCYC'95. They are heading for youth services in city and country parishes, including Narrogin, Harvey, Busselton and Mandurah.

Their mission is to spread the word about NCYC'95 and to get people to come.

• City Celebration

This is a major youth worship event in WA. It was held on May 29, with around 200 young people attending. The service featured Colin Buchanan, who will be singing at the coming NCYC'95, so Western Australians were given a sneak preview of what is to be expected at NCYC.

Colin is a 28 year old Christian, who makes stories about outback Australia come alive through song. He realises that the entire world is God's and he talks about it through the descriptive tales in his songs. His songs are funny, sad, heroic,

They're a weird mob in WA! This month, the Convention Office received a video greeting from NCYC'95 Community Leaders, Jeremy Burrtenshaw and Cathy Terro, including a personal plea sung by Jeremy. His ditty went:

I can't get a girl, 'cause I ain't got a car.
I can't get a car 'cause I ain't got a job.
I can't get a job 'cause I ain't got a car.
All I need is a girl with a job and a car!
(That's why I'm coming to NCYC'95!)

There you have it girls! If you would like to meet Jeremy, register for NCYC today! (Video footage available on request.)

L'EDS

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Bringing down the barriers

Julie Hossack is director of the delegates with disabilities task group. She will be taking part in NCYC'95 with delegates with disabilities from around the State and across the country. Andrew Harris caught up with Julie as she plans for the big event.

Spend half an hour talking to Julie Hossack, and you can't help but come away feeling good. Julie's attitudes to the value of people as individuals and to quality of life are infectious.

"I've never done anything like this before," she said. "I didn't realise at first just how big a project this is. There's so many things to consider. But I'm really looking forward to it."

As well as the many organisational challenges facing the coordinators of task groups for NCYC'95, Julie has other challenges to face as well.

"There is a lot of fear of people with disabilities, especially those with verbal disabilities such as cerebral palsy. We're looking for people for our task group who have the right approach to disability — who are in tune with the integrity and dignity of delegates."

"Also, it's hard to discover a persons disability — people don't exactly advertise it and others would not consider their condition as a disability. So before the delegates arrive, we need to know as clearly as possible what their disability is."

To meet these challenges, Julie's task group consists of members who represent people with all types of disabilities.

"People with disabilities are the best resource for finding out the needs of delegates. One of the members, Neville Potter, has cerebral palsy. He runs a program called Disability Awareness for schools and service groups. Through his program he shows that 'Hey, even though we're in wheelchairs and can't speak fluently, we still have a contribution to make to society.'"

Neville hopes that all leaders will participate in the program prior to NCYC'95 and as an elective for delegates at the convention.

Delegates with disabilities will participate in NCYC'95 through a 'buddy system'. They will have a volunteer who assists them in getting to and from venues and caring for them during the many events.

We want to bring down the barriers so that we're all just people of God.

"This means everything from just holding an elbow to pushing a wheelchair — generally just being there for them during NCYC'95," said Julie.

"Obviously the degree of caregiving will vary from delegate to delegate depending on their disability. Deaf delegates require very little assistance apart from interpreters at some of the venues. Other delegates may be incapable of showering or even going to the toilet, and will require more attention. These people usually travel with their own personal caregiver."

This raises the obvious questions of funding. Can these caregivers be brought to NCYC'95 with the delegates? If so, is it fair to ask them to pay for their own registration? What about specialised transport to and from events?

"We're applying to several foundations around Adelaide for grants to cover these and other associated costs," Julie says. "Delegates are often on low incomes which makes registration difficult. We're trying to establish a sponsorship scheme to provide discounts, with delegates contributing 10% of their income towards registration."

" If the money can't be raised, it will be up to churches to support their delegates," she said.

So while the road to NCYC'95 is rapidly shortening, Julie's enthusiasm continues to increase with her task group, as they try to

Exploring the Edge

Theme One

Living on the Edge in Australia

The Edge is the main theme for NCYC '95. It is about challenging us to take risks and to live by faith. To venture into areas which we have never been before and to soar to great heights, just by believing and trusting what God has for us.

At the convention we will learn that living on The Edge means more than just living by faith. We plan to briefly outline the five topics to be discussed during NCYC'95, in the next five issues. The first theme is Living on the Edge in Australia.

This topic looks at the theme in relation to Australian Society. It will examine the issues facing Australians today and how this impacts upon Christians and their actions. Such issues include the family, ethnic questions, plastic money (credit), work and the work ethic, the place of women and men in society and the division between the rich and the poor.

This topic also encompasses the church in Australia and its impact on and its relationship with Australian people. Also how the church relates to issues raised in Australian society.

The focal Bible reading fo this topic will be Luke 4:16-30, with supplementary readings from Acts and other relevant material. The reading shows what Jesus's ministry is called to do. That is to bring good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, sight to the blind and liberty to the captives.

It also demonstrates how society can condemn the good news of the Gospel and ridicule those who bring it.

Jesus was taken to the edge because of the good news of his ministry. He stood up for what he believed, but was made to feel an outcast and was then driven to the edge.

The church today is called to bring the good news of the Gospel and the reign of God, but Christians need to be made aware of the reactions that society will present them for going to the edge.

So this topic will present the reactions that different world views and cultures give in response to receiving

THE CUTTING EDGE

NCYC needs help

THE National Christian Youth Convention is less than seven months away. Support is needed in these areas:

- *Buddies:* Up to 50 disabled delegates will attend NCYC. We're looking for "Buddies" to offer practical support to these delegates.
- *L'Edgends:* NCYC'95 also needs friendly people to make sure our guests feel welcome — everything from ushering delegates to entertaining people waiting in food queues.
- *Small group leaders:* We need people to lead groups of 6 to 10 people during NCYC'95. If you're a sensitive and tolerant leader with good listening skills, this is for you!

If you can help contact the NCYC office on (08) 212 4066.

Christians in gaol!

ABOUT 70 young people will stay at the Old Adelaide Gaol during NCYC '95, focusing on social justice issues.

Beds are limited, so interested people need to fill out a gaol registration form when they register for NCYC'95.

Further details are available from the NCYC '95 Convention Office on (08) 212 4066.

Fundraising for NCYC?

NEED help with your fundraising towards NCYC '95? A brochure filled with helpful hints on fundraising is now available.

Contact the Convention Office on (08) 212 4066.

Wanted: Lots of musicians

NCYC'95 needs musicians — and lots of them! Each community of one hundred people at NCYC'95 will have its own worship band. We're expecting over 2,000 people to be in Adelaide for the Convention. That means we'll need plenty of musicians.!

Music workshops will be held on Saturday, July 23 and Sunday, September 24.

To register your interest contact the NCYC '95 office on (08) 212 4066.

NCYC planning days

ALL NCYC'95 task groups will meet together on August 20 and November 26 and 27.

These planning days bring together the many people involved in making the NCYC'95 vision a reality here in Adelaide. It also gives them an opportunity to catch up with one another and the latest information about NCYC'95.

Children at NCYC

YES — there'll be children at NCYC'95, too! They'll spend the morning with their parents and then they'll head off to the Children's Program Centre.

The centre will be open each afternoon between 12 noon and 9.30 pm and will offer a variety of activities including excursions and performances.

NEWS FLASH !

The NCYC'95 Office has a new telephone number. Now you can call us on (08) 212 4066 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday) or 231 8660 (after hours).

The new number has an answering machine attatched — please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

A great range of NCYC'95 merchandise has just arrived in Adelaide and we're giving YOU an opportunity to own a piece of the action! We have the following items for sale:

ABORIGINAL DESIGN T-SHIRT $20
(sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL)

1) Natural with 3 colour design
2) Rust with 3 colour design
3) Black with 1 colour design
4) Olive with 3 colour design

Proceeds will assist Aboriginal delegates to attend NCYC'95.

COTTON BOXER SHORTS $15
(sizes L, XXL)

5) Black with white 'Eddie'
6) Black with fluoro orange 'Eddie'

LONG SLEEVED T-SHIRTS $25
(sizes S, M, XL, XXL)

7) White with black sleeves
8) Black with white sleeves

Both have 3 colour logo and NCYC sleeve print

9) Blue & white tie-dyed with black logo (size XXL only)

WINDCHEATERS $25
(sizes L, XL, XXL)

10) Grey with 'The Edge - NCYC'95 Adelaide' embroidered in grey.

Please send me the following NCYC'95 merchandise:

ITEM COLOUR SIZE Q'TITY $

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Plus $3.00 postage for 1 item and $2.00 for every additional item.

Please find enclosed my cheque for $ _____

OR Please debit my Bankcard/ Visacard/Mastercard (circle one) $ _____

Card No: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiry date / /

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

Signature _____

Chocolate Eddies are now available !

Chocolate Eddies are now available! These tasty fundraising chocolates are available to anyone raising money towards NCYC'95.

"We've just received our first order of 5,000 chocolates," says Convention Manager, Stu Cameron as he wipes the chocolate away from his mouth. "And they taste delicious!"

The chocolates, which come in boxes of forty, are made in South Australia by an employment project of the Port Adelaide Central Mission.

"Not only are we supporting the Mission," explains Stu, "We are also helping overseas delegates to get to NCYC'95. Five cents from every chocolate sold goes directly to our support fund for overseas delegates."

Youth groups stand to make a profit of 40 cents per chocolate or **$16 per box!**

Stu also hopes that some youth groups will choose to donate all of their profits to overseas delegates.

To order your Chocolate Eddies call the NCYC'95 Office on (08) 212 4066. A delivery charge applies if you live outside of Adelaide

Where your money goes

EDDIE
G'day, I can't stop for long, you won't believe what just happened!
I've got a bilby mate, and he's raising funds for his endangered species.
He's doing this by selling chocolate models of himself at easter...
I posted for a mould and proceeded to pig out in the mail swing
Trouble is, now ya want me for my body as well as my mind! AARGH!
L'end

top 10

TOP 10 TRAVEL GAMES TO PLAY WHILE CROSSING THE NULLABOR / HAY PLAINS ON YOUR WAY TO NCYC '95

1. *Spot the tree* or *Guess what's around the corner.*
2. *I Spy* — fun the first two times, then gets repetitive!
3. The *Lock the Door, Unlock the Door, Lock the Door...* game. Especially fun if you have central locking.
4. The *Alphabet* game (Apple, Banana, Carrot ...)
5. Checking if your speedometer is accurate by timing distances between road signs.
6. Count the cars (13 red, 15 white, 6 yellow...).
7. The *Lets annoy the person in front* game — pulling their hair, flicking their ears etc..
8. Radio channel hopping (not that AM station, or that one, or that one ...).
9. Chess — if you are good that one should get you across the Nullabor!.
10. Sardines — pick a person and then **SQUASH!**

Prayer Points

- Strength and guidance for the many people, including Stu Cameron and Rebecca Kohler, who are sharing their gifts to make NCYC possible.
- Community Leaders — for people with suitable skills to fulfil leadership positions at NCYC.
- Thanks — for the way God is working as we prepare for NCYC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

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Adelaide 5001
Ph: (08) 212 4066
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Melbourne 3000
Ph: (03) 654 2488
Contact: Libby Renton

New South Wales
God Cares
PO Box 2550
North Paramatta 2151
Ph: (02) 630 4100
Contact: Fuzz Kitto

Queensland
YACMU
PO Box 1602
Toowong 4066
Ph: (07) 870 8444
Contact: Murray Fysh

Tasmania
Youth Ministry Unit
96 Margaret St
Launceston 7250
Ph: (003) 319 784
Contact: Bruce Mullan
Rachel Millen

Northern Territory
Children and Youth Unit
GPO Box 717
Darwin 0800
Ph: (089) 81 8444

Western Australia
Youth Services of the Uniting Church
317 Bagot Rd
Subiaco 6008
Ph: (09) 388 3150
Contact: Rick Morrell
Karen Kahl

So much is happening with NCYC '95, that we couldn't fit it all in!
If you want an update on any other NCYC information, please contact Rebecca or Stu at the Convention office on (08) 212 4066, or write to:
NCYC '95,
GPO Box 2145,
Adelaide, South Australia, 5001.